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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,149	11/02/2001	Kristian Dimatteo	498-263	7468

23869 7590 03/12/2004

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EXAMINER

HO, UYEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/02/2001 and 1/14/2003 have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khosravi et al. (6,290,720) in view of Usala (5,922,339). Khosravi et al. disclose a stent-graft comprising a graft (12), a stent (14). Although, Khosravi et al. do not disclose the stent being coated with biocompatible material, as claimed, attention is directed to the Usala reference which discloses a biocompatible polymeric material as claimed and suggests the polymeric material poly-para-xylylene to be coated on a stent or vascular graft in order to prevent material from adhering to the stent or vascular graft and to provide a biocompatible immunoisulatory vehicle suitable for long term implantation of the stent or stent into a body lumen (col. 5, lines 52-64). Usala also suggests a method for coating as claimed (col. 6, line 18 to col. 8, line 24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to coat the biocompatible polymeric, poly-para-xylylene as claimed onto Khosravi et al.'s stent-graft in order to prevent material from

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adhering to the stent-graft and to provide a biocompatible surface that will not evoke the immune response for implantation of the stent-graft into a body lumen.

In regarding to the wall thickness of the graft, the range of the wall thickness of the graft as claimed is known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the graft of Khosravi having a wall thickness within the range as claimed in order to accommodate within a body lumen and provide a necessary support.

Although, Khosravi et al. do not disclose the graft being non-textile, it is known in the art that a non-textile vascular graft being made to minimize the thickness of the graft wall as well as the blood leaking through the wall of the graft. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the graft as disclosed by Khosravi et al. as a non-textile graft in order to minimize the thickness of the graft wall as well as the blood leaking through the wall of the graft. Doing to would optimize the accommodation and support function of the graft in a vessel.

In regarding to the method as claimed, using the method as suggested by Usula would carry out all the steps as claimed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 306-3421. The examiner can normally be reached on MULTIFLEX Mon. to Sat..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Milano can be reached on (703) 308-2496.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3731
March 11, 2004